

Johnson & Johnson Innovation Lung Cancer Center at Boston University: Pilot Projects 2020

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Submission Deadline: November 22, 2019

BACKGROUND

Johnson & Johnson Innovation LLC and Boston University have a five-year alliance that will help accelerate the vision of creating a world without lung cancer. As part of the alliance, Johnson & Johnson is issuing a request for proposals seeking to fund pilot programs developed by teams from across the Boston University ecosystem. These projects will be selected by a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) comprised of an equal number of representatives from Johnson & Johnson and Boston University.

The Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI) at Johnson & Johnson

The cross-sector Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI) at Johnson & Johnson is dedicated to transforming the standard of care for this devastating disease. The vision for the LCI is to develop solutions that prevent, intercept and cure lung cancer, enabling a future vision where there is a world without this disease. By focusing on where the best science and innovation is being developed anywhere in the world, the LCI will eliminate lung cancer one patient at a time by developing holistic solutions through consumer products, diagnostics, medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

The Johnson & Johnson Innovation Lung Cancer Center at Boston University

A Johnson & Johnson Innovation Lung Cancer Center at Boston University is being established, allowing close collaboration between Boston University investigators and members of the Lung Cancer Initiative within Johnson & Johnson to work together to develop solutions that prevent, intercept and cure lung cancer. Avrum Spira, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Pathology and Bioinformatics, Boston University has joined Johnson & Johnson as Global Head, Lung Cancer Initiative, Johnson & Johnson, and will direct the new center.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FRAMEWORK AND FUNDING

Proposals should be focused on preventing, intercepting, or curing lung cancer at *early stages* and should consider the concepts that lung cancer is often caused by behaviors that lead to chronic exposure to respiratory carcinogens that produce cellular/genomic damage, chronic inflammation, alterations in innate and adaptive immunity, and changes in the pulmonary

microbiome – all may trigger the escape of transformed cells from immune surveillance. Additionally, proposals can include the use of digital therapeutics (e.g. – web or app-based solutions) to help change behaviors (e.g. smoking cessation), as well as the use of analytics to develop algorithms to better predict healthcare outcomes (e.g. risk of disease). Proposals that characterize premalignant lesions or that substantially improve the detection and treatment of lung cancer at more curable, early stages will also be prioritized for funding.

Funding

The JSC will consider funding awards between \$100,000 up to a maximum of \$400,000/year (inclusive of indirect costs), for the conduct of the research plan based on an agreed-upon budget.

Period of Performance

It is anticipated that the period of performance will be one year with the opportunity to renew for a second year.

Application Process

This RFP involves a two-stage process for submission and review of applications. The first stage is the Pre-proposal stage. The JSC will identify promising Pre-proposals to be expanded into Full Proposals in the second stage of the RFP process.

1. Pre-proposals

Initially, a brief summary of the proposed research (“Pre-proposal”), with a **non-confidential one-page** “Project Synopsis” will be submitted to Jon Gilbert (jong@bu.edu) at BU Industry Engagement by the BU Principal Investigator (PI). The Pre-proposal should address and contain the following:

- 1) Project background and rationale
- 2) Description of the research objectives and any relevant non-confidential preliminary results
- 3) Simple estimated budget
- 4) Principal Investigator(s)

The Pre-proposals for new applications should not include any confidential information, for example, unpublished data, information regarding chemical structures/pathways, or unpublished patent applications. If you are unsure as to whether your submission includes confidential information, intellectual property, or other related issues, please reach out to Jon Gilbert (jong@bu.edu) at Industry Engagement.

Investigators of current pilot projects who are seeking a second year of funding are encouraged to apply. Pre-proposals for renewals must include a one-page brief summary as outlined above for new applications. Additionally, they must include a summary of Year 1 progress/milestones achieved, list of any publications, and the Year 1 funding amount (2 pages maximum).

Any questions regarding proposal ideas, please contact Joe Shotwell (jshotwel@its.jnj.com) at Johnson & Johnson or Jon Gilbert (jong@bu.edu) at Boston University.

2. Full proposals

The JSC will invite a selection of pre-proposals to advance to the second stage of the application for full proposal submission. At this point, each applicant will be provided a scientific point of contact within Johnson & Johnson to work with while developing the full proposal. After submitting their full proposals, investigators will be invited to present their proposals to the JSC, who will evaluate and select projects for funding soon thereafter.

DEADLINES

November 22, 2019	Pre-proposal submission deadline
February 5, 2020	Invitations to submit full proposals
March 6, 2020	Full proposal submission deadline
April 3, 2020	Full proposal presentation to JSC

JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE

Boston University

Alliance Director

- **Gloria Waters**, Vice President and Associate Provost for Research

Joint Steering Committee Members

- **Karen Antman**, Dean, Boston University School of Medicine and Provost of the Medical Campus
- **Ken Lutchen**, Dean, College of Engineering

Alliance Manager

- **Jon Gilbert**, Director, Industry Engagement

Johnson & Johnson

Alliance Director

- **Bill Hait**, Global Head, JNJ Global External Innovation

Joint Steering Committee Members

- **Ben Wiegand**, Global Head, World Without Disease Accelerator
- **Bruce Rosengard**, Vice President, Global External Innovation Medical Device

Alliance Manager

- **Joe Shotwell**, Sr. Alliance Manager, World Without Disease Accelerator